What is claimed is:

1.   An electronic document processing system including a plurality of electronic document processors connected to each other by a network,

5   wherein each of said electronic document processors comprising:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

10   processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing

15   means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing

20   carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is

25   generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic

document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors.

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2. An electronic document processing system according to claim 1, further including:

tracking request entry means for receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document;

10 and

status display means for obtaining a log corresponding to said predetermined electronic document from said predetermined resource, and displaying information indicating a present status of said predetermined electronic

15 document, when said tracking request for tracking said predetermined electronic document is made by said tracking request entry means;

said status display means also displaying a status of said derivative electronic document correlated with said

20 electronic document of which said tracking request was made, by also referring to said information indicating said correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document.

25 3. An electronic document processing system according to claim 1, wherein when a plurality of derivative electronic documents to be generated contain a common

content, said derivative electronic document generation means combines said plurality of derivative electronic documents into a single derivative electronic document.

5   4. An electronic document processing system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic document contains first access limiting information for limiting access of users to said electronic document,

said each electronic document processor including 10 access permitting means responsive to a request of access to said electronic document, for permitting only an authorized user to gain said access to said electronic document, through comparison with rights of users and said first access limiting information; and

15 wherein said log contains second access limiting information for limiting access of users to said log,

said access permitting means being responsive to a request of access to said log, for permitting only an authorized user to gain said access to said log, through 20 comparison with said rights of said users and said second access limiting information.

5. An electronic document processing system according to claim 2, wherein said log has information 25 indicating a status of a business process written therein, said business process being started by reception of said electronic document,

said status display means also displaying information indicating said status of said business process as status information.

6. An electronic document processor ·connected to other electronic document processors via a network, for transmission and reception of electronic documents therebetween,

the electronic document processor comprising:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is

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generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors.

7. A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program for an electronic computer connected to other electronic document processors via a network, for transmission and reception of electronic documents therebetween,

said program causing said computer to function as:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing

carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors.